The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and the social interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the labor, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1982 WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1949 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* VOL. 39, NO. 14

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Pass Pro-Labor Bills

Bill to Revise Social Security System Incorporates AFL-Proposed Changes

The following is the last of a two-part explanation of the provisions of House bill 2892 revising the Federal Social Security System and which includes many of the changes backed by the American Federation of Labor.

The importance of the measure was stressed by AFL President William Green, who urged all union officials to give wide publicity to this analysis and to stress the necessity of marshaling the support of all union members behind the proposed legislation.

EXPANDED COVERAGE

In addition to the present coverage of wage earners in industry and commerce, the proposed program would cover such major groups as agricultural and domestic workers, employes of nonprofit organizations, members of the armed forces, farmers and other self-employed persons.

Coverage would be extended, through voluntary agreements with the states, to state and local government employes on approval of the employes affected. Compulsory coverage extension is prohibited in the case of elective and policemen who are under an existing retirement plan. No provision of the bill would affect in any way the retirement and disability programs now in operation for civilian employes of the federal government.

Some, however, contemplate extending coverage to a limited number of short term jobs in the federal service and in such wholly owned instrumentalities of the government as the TVA which are not under any such program.

The bill would repeal the "Gearhart Resolution" passed by the 80th Congress which excludes certain salesmen and other independent contractors from social-security coverage.

LIBERALIZED ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for insured status are changed to reduce the handicap which newly covered persons would otherwise experience, and to provide an adequate transitional coverage in only one-fourth the quarters of coverage (instead of one-half) would be required for eligibility for retirement and survivors benefits. Insured status for monthly disability benefits is based on relatively substantial and recent coverage of employment and for waiting periods of 6 months of unemployment. Tests for all types of monthly benefits are liberalized by the elimination of quarters of nonability.

The age at which women may qualify for benefits—either on the basis of their own wage records or as the wife of an insured person—is reduced from 65 to 60. Other liberalizations include the payment of a benefit to the wife of a beneficiary retired for age who has in her care a child entitled to benefits and has an entitled child in her care.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RETIREMENT, SURVIVORS AND DISABILITY INSURANCE

In general, workers and their employers would each pay a contribution rate of 2 percent on wages up to $4,800 a year for all the benefits of the program.

Employes of non-profit organizations would be covered for all the benefits of the program but to compulsory contribution would be levied on the employing organizations; the compulsory contribution rate for the employe is 2 percent and the employing organization's rate is 3 percent except that the 1 percent employer contribution to prevent the reduction in wage credits which would otherwise be imposed.

The contribution rate for the self-employed has been set at a point lower than the combined employer-employe rate. The 2½ percent contribution rate which self-employed persons would pay is the equivalent of the rate for those employes, who, like the self-employed, would receive short-term disability benefits plus one-half the rate paid by their employers.

LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The bill establishes an Advisory Committee to review and evaluate the social security program at regular intervals. The committee is to be representative of employes, employers, the public and the general public and shall—half the members to be appointed by the President of the United States and half by the President of the Senate. It is to make recommendations to Congress on matters of policy affecting the social security program.

Brown's Success in Europe Draws Fire of Communists

By ADRIENNE TASSLER
European Correspondent
To AFL News Service

Brussels.—Irving Brown, the AFL's European Representative, is a favorite whipping boy of European Communists.

The broad-shouldered former union organizer, who has been trying for more than 3 years to familiarize European workers with the benefits of free trade unions, draws slurs almost daily in Red-controlled publications from France to Hungary. He has been lampooned in dozens of cartoons and observes as the target for frequent radio attacks.

The Hungarian Communist Daily newspaper, Szabadsag published in Budapest, described the opening of the AFL's new European offices in Brussels, Belgium, as a part of the "reform of 'American Wall-Street Socialism' to Europe." AFL activities, it charged, "prepare the new and more aggressive offensive of the U.S.A."

Drapeau Rouge, the Communist organ of Belgium, described the AFL as "the most dangerous agent of Wall Street mystery but dangerous to the workers." It is playing its role in Europe in order "to work to divide the trade unions of western Europe in order to weaken them, to undermine the workers in American big business . . ."

Brown, the article continued, "so more represents the American working class than do the numerous representatives of corn dealers and cocoa who are crowding at present the exit of our conference . . ."

An article in "L'Humanite," a Communist organ published in Paris, described Brown as an American citizen who was sent to France by the "reactionaries" of the AFL, adding:

"He works under the direction of the Department of State."

A subsequent issue of the same paper headed a story about Brown—"The Professional Scientist Irving Brown Returns to Us"—accompanied by a series of cartoons and additional dollars . . .

Shortly before the collapse of the World Federation of Trade Unions, which was split by Red and Socialist left-wing Danish daily, stated:

"Irving Brown, whose financial support made the right-wing Social-democrats so powerful, is trying to break union movement, is now trying on behalf of the AFL and Marshall to persuade his English colleagues to do the same thing in the window from the World Trade Union Federation.

"Brown has been given all sorts of titles and has come out and away from the IFTU and the World Federation of Trade Unions. We can hope that the right-wing Socialists will soon understand what disgusting dirt they are obliged to endure as American foreign policy . . ."

Green Hails Progress of ECA Program; Says U. S. Aid to Europe Helps Peace

Washington.—On the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the European Recovery Program, AFL President William Green hailed its achievements and declared "it has served to preserve and reinforce peace during its first year of operation."

In a statement which broke loud cast to Europe by the Voice of America, Mr. Green said that the program has helped "to heal the deep-seated economic ills of the battle-torn Western Europe which resulted from the horror of war and to improve both the standard of living and the morale of their people."

The AFL president's statement continued:

"Before the Economic Cooperation Administration undertook to promote the European Recovery Program, the plight of almost every nation in Western Europe was desperate. The twin evils of hunger and unemployment were rampant and despair gripped their people and undermining their resolution to protect their freedoms. their democracy and even their national independence.

"The helplessness and hopelessness of the Western European economic situation provided fertile soil for totalitarian conspiracy. The notorious Communist fifth columns were aggressively on the march. The cold collapse of Czechoslovakia and its submission to Soviet domination was also a tragic and dramatic precedent for what lay in store for many other nations of Europe.

"We in the American Federation of Labor think that if that trend were allowed to continue the inevitable result would be war. We believe that war could not afford to sit back and let Europe go down to defeat. We owe it to Europe to abandon democracy and slavery by default.

"That is why we crusaded for the European Recovery Program, despite its heavy drain on the resources, the materials and the wealth of our own country.

"Last December, this program has been paid for out of the hard-earned wages of America's workers, through taxes. Far from being an imperialistic plan, as charged by the Soviets, as the Communists have falsely charged, the European Recovery Program is an investment in peace and brotherhood. It is an investment in human family.

Today our investment has borne fruit. Behold the picture! The nations of Europe have begun to emerge again getting back on their feet. Production and industrial productivity have made substantial progress. The people of Europe have regained hope and self-confidence. Their resistance to Communist infiltration has been immeasurably reinforced.

"On this anniversary of the ECA we look back on the first year of the far the European Recovery Program has been a success. We look forward to continue it and support it in the years ahead. Our own and our loving friends in Europe are restored to a confidence in the future. We have won security in their freedom, their democracy and their right to maintain a democratic way of life."

Labor-Employer Teamwork Theme of 1949 Union Show

By I. M. ORNBURN
Secretary-Treasurer, Union Label Trades Dept.

Good relations is the goal of the Labor Industries Show. The fourth all-union AFL exhibition is scheduled for May 18-22 in the mammoth Public Auditorium at Cleveland, Ohio. Over 400 booths of AFL trade unionists—will get a big thrill when they see the coming, spectacular event.

Only a brief review of the numerous attractions will give a partial description of our unique labor-management exhibition. The five-day extravaganza is packed with action, exhibits and huge crowds from the opening ceremonies to the conclusion of the show. There is no charge for admission.

The Union Industries Show is a dramatized presentation of all things union. It is dynamic, educational, entertaining and inspirational. Furnished every hour during the day and night sessions of the show. The best musicians in the world, union members, will play at the event with their sparkling and refreshing melodies.

It is inspiring to visually witness "live" exhibits where pottery and bakery workers, cigar makers, electricians and other skilled union craftsmen actually make the ware that made America famous throughout the world and actually see demonstrations of the best in services efficiently performed by union workers.

Manufacturers of nationally known products also have animated exhibits which give life to the many products they make. Many of these displays which are sponsored by both union labor and management.

The exhibitors and all who attend the show will readily agree that it is a cardinal event in the history of American labor-management cooperation. Through mutual understanding as exemplified in one of our outstanding exhibitions, we are paving the road to industrial peace, economic stability and permanent prosperity for America.

AFL PLASTERERS UNION WINS HEALTH BENEFIT

New York.—Beginning May 1, 1,800 workers affiliated with the plastering industry in this area will receive health and life insurance benefits as a result of an agreement between Local 60 of the AFL's Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons International Association and several employing groups, it was announced here.

According to the terms of the agreement, Blue Cross hospitalization benefits for union members and their family dependents will be provided through Associated Hospital Service.

—New York's Blue Cross Plan, Life Insurance amounting to $1,000 and payments up to $150 for surgery will also be provided to union members through the Union Labor Life Insurance Company.

VETS GIVEN 30% OF JOBS IN N. Y. CIVIL SERVICE IN '48

Albany.—State Civil Service Commission reported that war veterans were appointed to 30 percent of the permanent state jobs filled by the commission during 1948.

In its annual report, the commission also stated that 35 percent of the employes given permanent promotions during the year were veterans.

The report showed that 4,020 appointments were made by the commission from competitive examinations last year. Of that total, 2,806 jobs went to non-veterans, 972 to non-disabled veterans and 246 to disabled veterans.

FRENCH, ITALIAN LEADERS IN U. S. AS AFL GUESTS

New York.—A joint delegation of 5 French and 5 Italian trade union leaders arrived here as guests of the AFL's Free Trade Union Committee.

Long in the forefront of the fight against Communism in their own lands, members of the delegation will tour the first hand how democracy functions in America. During their 5-week stay, they will visit large industrial centers throughout the United States.

The delegation was put together by Chula Andre Le Fond, Van Maclaskie and Executive Secretary, Albert Kayser. Louis Nallind. The Italian union leaders are Giovanni Pasqualli, Vincenzo Cesari, Renato Cappugi, Alessandro Cappalletti, and Antonia Malgrati.

AVERAGE WAGE IN BAY STATE SHOWED DROP TO $51 IN FEB.

Boston.—Workers in Massachusetts factories have average earnings of $51 a week, the State Department of Labor and Industries reported.

A survey of 2,000 plants employing 390,079 workers in February produced this figure. It showed that the payrolls for these plants were 0.4 under those for the corresponding week in January.

Twenty factories normally in the survey were idle. Six have gone out of business. Framingham, with a figure of $63.85, showed the highest wage average in the state.

Chicago Typos Reject Publishers' Offer; Call Proposed Pact Yellow-Dog Contract

Chicago.—Members of Chicago Typographical Union, Local 16, voted 2060 to 910 on a referendum conducted by the Chicago Newspaper Publishers Association to end the historic strike at Chicago's 5 major dailies.

The strike has been in progress since November 24, 1947. The publishers' bargaining offer, effective March 10, provided for a $10 weekly wage raise. The union previously had obtained a $12.50 raise from the publishers in 1947.

Rejection of the proposal was recommended by the union's newspaper scale committee. The executive committee of the International Typographical Union, parent affiliate, also informed the local membership that some provisions in the contract proposal were "not to the ITU liking."

After the referendum, by secret ballot, John J. Pilch, president of Local 16, issued the following statement:

"The members of Chicago Typographical Union again have rejected an attempt by the newspaper publishers to hook them with a yellow dog contract. The vote today was in the ratio of 14 to 8.

"In upholding their local scale committee and the executive council of the ITU, the members of the Chicago union are running avidness of their loyalty to the laws which they have approved by their own votes, expressed by referendum and by annual conventions to which they send delegates from among their fellow craftsmen.

"The contract tendered us by the Chicago Newspaper Publishers Association was greatly inferior, as regards wages and working conditions, to the contract our local enjoyed into in January with the Hammond (Ind.) Times.

"Furthermore, the contract offered us by the Chicago newspapers would have given our Chicago members a wage scale considerably below what is being paid to our men in Hammond.

"Our members regard it as galling for the immensely prosperous Chicago newspapers to want such vicious competitive advantages over the Hammond Times, published in a city whose population is only 3 percent as large as Chicago's.

"The fight against the Chicago newspapers continues in full force and effect. We are confident that the publishers abandon their attempt to establish a yellow dog shop in the years produced their papers.

"We are grateful for the results so far taken varying forms, including injunction, picketing, circulation pressure, and an unprecedented propaganda campaign. We believe that as attack takes, it will continue to be beaten back.

"Our members will consider no proposal that does not offer them equity and which shows the same respect for our trade union as they follow the newspaper publishers. We are at all times ready, willing and eager to enter into peaceful relations with the publishers on such a firm basis, and we regard any other basis unstable and, therefore, unacceptable, and far from their viewpoint or from ours."

McDEVITT ASSAILS PLAN TO CUT JOB FUND PAYMENT

Harrisburg.—James L. McDevitt, president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, assailed a proposal to revise the schedule of employers' contributions to the state unemployment compensation fund.

McDevitt contended that the bill was a "sneaker" to reduce the employer's responsibility for unemployment compensation fund by more than 40 percent. "If this bill becomes law, yearly contributions by employers to the state unemployment compensation fund will be reduced from $90 a year to a maximum of from $50 to $60 a year."

Under the legislature defeating efforts of labor to get adequate unemployment compensation benefits after the administration gave assurance earlier in the session that adequate increases would be made for the unemployed worker," President McDevitt said, "it certainly comes at an ill-timed time for some employers to seek to pay less than they are already paying without regard for the consequences to the fund or the workers needs."

High Court Backs Picket Ban In State Trade Restraint Case

Census Bureau Reports Drop in Jobless; March Employment Shows Sharp Upturn

Washington.—The downward trend in unemployment which began in January, according to reports released by the Bureau of the Census.

The bureau's estimates of the employment situation showed that there were 54,000 fewer jobless during the month while the number of employed rose by 470,000.

Corroboration of the Census Bureau's figures came from Robert C. Goodwin, director of the Bureau of Employment Security of the Federal Security Agency.

Mr. Goodwin reported a reversal, at least temporarily, of unemployment trends among workers covered by state unemployment insurance laws. The figures were of more recent origin than those compiled by the Census Bureau.

He said that claims from workers who had completely weak or severe unemployment had dropped from 1,949,700 to 1,893,700, a decrease of 56,000. This was the first decline for a weekly period since November, except for weeks affected by holidays, he said.

Federal officials were optimistic over the developments.

They said, however, that at least momentarily the unemployment trend in the upward direction has been stopped," said Charles Sawyer, Secretary of Commerce.

"The March estimates," said a Department of Commerce statement, "based on the Census Bureau's current population survey, indicate that employment at 2,250,000, or practically the same level as in February . . .

"A seasonal expansion in employment in agriculture and some other industries apparently counter-balanced the effect of further layoffs in other sectors of the economy. However, the number of persons with jobs was still about 700,000 above the level of a year ago."

While the department said that unemployment in February and March were "practically at the same level," the actual increase was 2,167,000 for March and 3,221,000 for February, a drop of 1,054,000.

The figures are estimates based on statistics collected in the week of March 6 to 12, and compared with the same week of February.

The increase in size of the labor force, due to the normal rise in population and the addition of student workers in February and March, explained the increase of 470,000 in the number of persons employed at a time when unemployment fell by only 54,-000. The total labor force, on a year-round figure, increased from 60,388,-000 in February to 60,814,000 in March.

The estimate of the employed was 57,168,000 in February and 57,647,000 in March.

Supreme Court Holds State Law Applies To Union Acts

Washington. — The Supreme Court upheld a state ban on union picketing, even though conducted peacefully, in a decision involving interpretation of Missouri's "anti-trade restraint" statute.

In a unanimous decision prepared by Justice Hugo L. Black, the court supported the legality of an injunction obtained by an employer against an AFL union under the terms of the state anti-trust law which in no way exempts unions from prosecution.

The significance of the decision for organized labor lies in the fact that it emphasizes the need for securing adequate protection in state legislation or trade restraint laws similar to the Norris-LaGuardia Act of the federal.

In his opinion Justice Black pointed out that the Supreme Court, in earlier cases, upheld state co-congressional acts of restraint of commerce from the anti-trust laws.

He said, however, where laws did not grant such exemptions, the court in framing decisions on individual cases could not be "defended on the ground that particular state discrimination would not injure but would actually help interstate commerce, industrial enterprises, consumers or the public in general."

The case arose when members of the AFL's Building Service Local and Coal Drivers and Handlers in Kansas City, Mo., picketed the Meadow Brook Storage and Ice Company because it refused to sign an agreement banning the sale of its products to non-union truck drivers. The action was taken by the company obtained an injunction against the union restraining it from continuing the picket line.

The trial court, whose ruling the Missouri State Supreme Court found that the union was using a combination to make the company stop selling to non-union men; and that the picketing was "to force Empire to become a party to such combination."

The union contended the injunction against its picketing was a abridgment of freedom of speech and press guaranteed by the 14th amendment, by words, were "attempting to publicize truthful facts about a labor dispute." They carried placards proclaiming that the firm was two to non-union peddlers."

But Black declared:

"It rarely has been suggested that the constitutional liberties of speech and press extends its immunity to picketing when it is an integral part of conduct in violation of a valid criminal statute. We reject this contention now."

Justice Black singled out the main issue of the case as follows:

"The [state] power to [whether Missouri or a labor union has paramount constitutional right to regulate and govern the manner in which certain party to such combination."

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AMA-Backed Health Plan Hit as Fraud on Public

Washington.—The first of what is expected to be a series of "compromise" health insurance bills, sponsored by the American Medical Association or its allies, went into the legislative hopper here and immediately drew a scathing denunciation from supporters of President Truman's national health insurance program.

The first of the alternative proposals came from Senator Lister Hill of Alabama and four Senate colleagues. It proposed to authorize grants from the federal treasury to help pay for voluntary health insurance programs for those who could not afford to pay for membership. It was, thus, a direct "charity" proposal, as opposed to the insurance which organized labor bitterly opposed last year.

Dr. Channing Frothingham, chairman of the Committee for the Nation's Health, which is leading the fight for the President's program, immediately denounced the bill as a "fraud on the people of America" and a proposal to appropriate billions of dollars out of the treasury which would merely "subsidize the present inadequate medical care."

Subsequently, the Committee for the Nation's Health issued a more detailed analysis of the Hill bill which showed clearly that it was "essentially incomplete, grossly inadequate and unworkable." Besides being wholly inadequate voluntary systems now in effect, was "only a promise" to the rural areas, and promised insufficient protection for the American people.

AFL Announces Special CARE Campaign For Relief of European Trades Unionists

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor today launched a drive of a nation-wide drive among its 8,000,000 members in support of the AFL's program to provide relief for thousands of families in Europe who suffer from hunger.

In letters to all affiliated organizations, AFL President William Green and Matthew Woll vice president of the AFL and head of Labor League for Human Rights, appealed to the membership to give generously and their members to make the CARE program successful.

Mr. Green pointed out that the AFL's Labor League for Human Rights was one of the 22 relief agencies which founded CARE (Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe), a non-profit, government-approved agency whose purpose it is to provide a means by which individuals can send to send individual aid abroad.

He explained that CARE packages sent to United States and under the European Recovery Program is beginning to rebuild industry in Europe, "it will be months before the average family will be any better off."

CARE packages have been designed to give the people in Europe the things they need most, the labor leader declared. "Your help is needed now."

Mr. Woll said that aid given in the past has been "the first step in trying to gain sufficient strength to maintain their freedom. It is not available guarantees of a peaceful, democratic and healthy development in Europe and Asia."

"The program of aid is to continue, your assistance is needed. Year-round support is necessary. We are setting aside the month of April as a special time for you, suggesting to you and your membership that during April you concentrate your voluntary giving to the CARE program.

"It is recommended that all small, orders, etc., be addressed to CARE, AFL Representative, 50 Broad Street, New York 4, N. Y."

EXTENDED DRY SEASON RESTRICTS POWER IN ITALY

Rome.—A drought in Italy, the worst since 1921, has put a crimp in Italy's efforts toward industrial recovery.

The worst shortage of hydro-electric power in history threatened a temporary shutdown of major industry, a European Recovery Program official said. He added that industrial output, which on Jan. 1 equaled or exceeded pre-war production, already had slumped 7 to 10 percent.

Rigid power rationing and heavy cut production to less than half of normal, he added.

Marshall Plan and Italian Government officials are considering the possibility of alleviating the shortage. But no definite decisions have been reached.

TOM CAIRNS IS DEAD; HEADED W. VA. FEDERATION

Charleston, S. C.—Thomas F. Cairns, 74, president of the West Virginia Federation of Labor from 1938 to 1945, died here after an illness of more than a year.

Mr. Cairns was a native of Durham, England, and came to this country at the age of 11. A veteran of the late war overseas, he was elected without opposition as president of the Kanawha subdistrict of the U. M. W. of A. in 1907. At that time the subdistrict covered all of West Virginia. One year later he was named to the UMW international executive board and in 1912 and 1914 was elected vice president of the UMW. He relinquished that office in 1916 and during World War I went into government service. After serving in the state legislature he held positions in the State Labor Department, State Mines Department and the Public Service Compensation Dept. until 1938.

MILITARY ENLISTEES HAVE JOBS GUARANTEED

Washington.—Young men enlisting in the armed services were assured that they are entitled to get their jobs back when they are mustered out, Robert E. Salyers, director director of the Labor Department's Bureau of Veterans Reemployment Rights, said enlistees and reservists called up for active duty have protection even though the services are not drafting men at present. He said some youths apparently have been under the impression that they have no reemployment rights unless they are drafted.

SUPERVISORY TRAINING WEIGHED BY ILO UNIT

Washington.—Training experts began meeting on the training of supervisors at the International Labor Organization's headquarters in Geneva.

The meeting is expected to make practical recommendations on how to organize and develop the training of supervisors in European industry in order to expand industrial output.

The training of supervisors is one aspect of the ILO's recently launched program of operational activities in the manpower field.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1949

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Pass Pro-Labor Bills

French, Italian Workers, Here as Guests of AFL, Back Atlantic Pact, ERP

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York—AFL members in major cities throughout the country will shortly have an opportunity to meet with a group of French and Italian trade unionists, guests of the American Federation of Labor, who are here to study our production methods and union organization setup and to canvass the possibility of organizing a new international, pro-democratic, anti-Stalinist congress of trade unions.

These European unionists are all men (and one woman) who come out of the ranks of labor and fought in the resistance movements of occupied countries against Hitler and the Nazis.

Strongly anti-Communist, spokesmen for the two delegations emphasized that the free trade union movements of France and Italy were behind the Atlantic Pact against aggression and the Marshall Plan aid program.

Andre Lafond, a railroad worker who was a leader in the underground during the war and received highest decorations, at a press conference here on the day the Atlantic Pact was signed declared:

"French trade unionists are convinced that the Atlantic Pact and the European Recovery Program are necessary. They know that the Atlantic Pact and the European Recovery Program are necessary. They know that while peace, means must be taken to insure that right and justice are protected by force; peace without justice is not worthy of the name. They know that while peace must be defended, without being war-mongering, in regard to the menace of totalitarian advance, we must have the Atlantic Pact but with reservations. They are sure that it will mobilize forces at the service of peace.

"Therefore French trade unionists support the Atlantic Pact with the understanding that it serves the cause of peace and opposes the formation of imperialist blocs. In addition it endeavors to insure to peoples the possibility of working peoples' democracy to develop their own initiative.

"A new international force trade unionism based on democracy will constitute an important means of assuring peace. An economic or social organization of Europe on a democratic basis will be a decisive factor. Only such an organization will shield the Iron Curtain and will destroy that Iron Curtain by the power of ideas behind the peoples. It will be realized for the people within the framework of peace and democracy.

"Even Communist opposition to the Atlantic Pact has failed. The Communists in France tried to use the unions for strikes for political purposes but the workers refused to follow the Communists. They understood that the Atlantic Pact is a treaty for peace."

The same sentiments were expressed by Renato Cappugi, another railroad worker, speaking for the Italian delegation. He, too, was a leader in the anti-Fascist underground during the war and organized the resistance groups around Florence. He is a member of the Italian Parliament of the Christian Democratic party.

"The war left Italy in such ruins that were it not for the Marshall Plan," said Cappugi, "our effort to restore democracy could not have been possible with such rapidity. Italian workers are grateful for this assistance."

The visiting delegations have arranged a tour which will take them to the following cities:

Washington, D. C.; Pittsburgh, Detroit, Chicago, Denver, Kansas City, St. Louis, Nashville, Cincinnati, Cleveland. They will leave America on May 23 after their 6-week tour.

The delegations were formally welcomed here by Vice President Matthew Woll on behalf of the AFL and by Irving Brown, labor representative in Europe. In remarks, the AFL leader expressed the hope that a new international of free trade unions could be organized.

At the press conference, Irving Brown, AFL representative in Europe, declared that true unity of democratic communist workers in the French and Italian trade unionists seemed unbreachable. Today, said Brown, just returned from Europe, it is impossible for the Communists to pull general strikes in France and Italy.

Brown also pointed out that of great significance is the fact that Italian and French delegations are here together because it symbolizes an end to the historic hostility between both countries and "it represents some of the fruits of the Free Trade Union Committee of the AFL which helped French and Italian workers when the issue of Communist domination was gravely in doubt."

The delegates are:

France—Andre Lafond, member of the Railroad Workers Union since 1920 and during the war, leader of the Paris area, Resistance movement in France. After victory, he became leader of the opposition in his union against Communist domination and in 1947 founded a free union of railroad workers which later joined the CGT-Force Ouvriere, the anti-Communist labor movement in France.

Gaston Van Maelsaecke, member of the Executive Committee of the National Metal Workers Union and a leader of the resistance movement in the automobile factories, a former assistant mayor of a Parisian suburb.

Charles Cortois, general secretary of the Force Ouvriere Mine Workers Union in Southern France, and member of the union's general council, a resistance leader among the French miners and member of his community municipal council.

Albert Wymeers, general secretary of the National Textile Workers Union affiliated with the French Confederation of Christian Workers and during the Nazi occupation, a member of a regional resistance group.

Louis Naillod, metal worker, active in the resistance and decorated for his bravery, now assistant treasurer of the French Confederation of Christian Workers.

Italy—Renato Cappugi, Executive Committee member of the Free Italian Confederation of Labor, underground leader and member of Parliament.

Giovanni Pesenti, secretary of the Italian Confederation of Labor and before Mussolini, jailed repeatedly for anti-Fascist activities and during the war commander of a detachment of the resistance army and now in the welfare office of the Italian Republican party.

Vasco Ceasri, secretary-general of the National Union of Electrical Workers, tried and convicted three times by the Fascists for his opposition.

Antonietta Malaguzzi, member of the Executive Committee of the Free Italian Confederation of Labor, helped organize an underground railway to help people escape from the Nazis and Fascists and a leader in Christian Labor.

Alessandro Cappelletti, secretary of the Agricultural Workers Union, affiliated with the Free Italian Confederation of Labor, forced to flee Italy in 1936 because of Fascists, arrested in 1940 by the Nazis and by the Vichy regime and deported to Italy where he was in the resistance and became a battalion commander in the Italian resistance forces.

Chicago Milk Wagon Drivers Union Seeks 5-Day Week, Better Pension Pay

Chicago—The Milk Wagon Drivers Union, one of the largest and strongest locals in the Chicago labor movement, is demanding a five-day week and improved pension provisions in negotiations for a new contract.

In their old contract which expires May 1, the milk drivers obtained a pension plan for the first time. It provided for payments of $40 a month to drivers of 25 years' service in the union, upon reaching the age of 65 or upon disability. Payments were limited to a total of $1,200 per man.

The pensions were financed by contributions by the employers of 1½ cents per man engaged in home delivery and 2½ cents per man employed on store routes. The plan was administered by the union and the union jointly, through trustees.

About 100 of the union's 5,000 drivers qualified for a pension when the life of the old contract, of whom about 80 were disabled veterans.

In its new demands, the union is asking that pensions be raised to $60 a month, that the retirement age be lowered to 60 instead of 65, that the pension be paid for life to the children instead of only to the $1,200 ceiling.

The union's demand for a five-day week is in line with benefits obtained recently in the railroad industry and other lines in which the traditional longer work-week was retained despite the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

Drivers are now paid $67 for a six-day week. The new demand is for a five-day week at $72, with the duties continuing deliveries every day of the week.

Thomas J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the union, said the change in the work-week would require more employees, at the 400 more drivers.

Such a benefit would tend to counter-balance the trend to rising unemployment in Illinois. During the 2-month period ended Jan. 15, the number of jobless in the state rose by 14,000, according to the state labor department. There were 170,000 unemployed on Jan. 15, as a result of curtailment in metal fabricating, machinery manufacture, retail trade and construction.

LABOR SAFEGUARDS FOR DPs URGED BY U. S. SPOKESMAN

Chicago—Measures to protect displaced persons from exploitation were announced by William L. Conaghy, director of the Bureau of Labor Standards, at a conference here of representatives of 21 state and voluntary agencies concerned with the DP problem.

It urged the state commissioners to determine whether employers of displaced persons are complying with the observance of labor standards; to check adequate housing for the new arrivals, and to keep them out of areas migratory farm work.

Martha H. Belisle, commissioner of labor of the United States office of the International Refugee Organization, told the conference that "nearly one-third" of the DPs now in the United States "are skilled workers in manufacturing and other technical trades. Another fourth are agricultural workers and about one-tenth have professional and managerial skills."

LLPE Steps Up Educational Campaign; Uses Radio to Spread Truth on Issues

AFL President William Green and Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah preparing recording for Labor's League for Political Education, urgeing the repeat of the Taft-Hartley law and early enactment of the Thomas bill to bring stability in labor-management relations.

Washington.—Labor's League for Political Education is taking to the air in an intensification of its political education campaign to explain the facts on current issues to the people of America.

AFL and congressional leaders have completed the preparation of a series of 6 recorded 15-minute discussions on issues of vital interest not only to working men and women but to every citizen in all walks of life.

The recordings will be distributed to 1,500 central labor unions and cities throughout the nation for broadcasting over local radio stations. In this way, voters in every precinct will have access to full and authentic knowledges on the issues facing the nation.

The league's entry into the radio field is an extension of its activities in the educational field which have always been devoted to the general theme that democracy works best when the general public is well informed.

Participants in the recordings and the topics discussed are as follows:

1. AFL President William Green and Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah discuss the subject of labor legislation and the need for enactment of the Thomas bill to replace the vicious Taft-Hartley statute.

2. AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and Representative Andrew J. Biemiller of Wisconsin tackle the same issue with emphasis on the Lesinski bill which is pending in the House of Representatives.

3. Nelson Rockefeller, the AFL's director of social insurance activities; Senator Douglas of Illinois, and Representative John A. Carroll of Colorado discuss social security legislation.

4. Peter Henle, AFL economist, and Senator John J. Sparkman of Alabama discuss the Taft-Ellender-Wagner housing legislation to help solve the crisis of a shortage of dwellings, particularly for low-income workers.

5. Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and Brian McMahon discuss United States foreign policy.

6. Glenn Slaughter, of LLPE, and Senator Warren Magnuson of Washington urge the development of more federally-owned power projects similar to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

It is expected that these recordings will be distributed in the near future. Consult your central body and local newspapers to determine the exact time of the broadcasts in your community.

Swiss Newspaper Exposes Communist Propaganda

The following appeared as a front-page story in a recent issue of "Le Journal de Geneve," a leading conservative daily newspaper published in Switzerland:

When the USSR. that tremendous military power, concludes mutual assistance pacts with the West it does so in the name of peace.

When western nations, practically unarmed, sign agreements, they do so in order to prepare for war.

When the USSR increases its military budget to 79 million rubles, its objective is peace.

When the U. S., with no army, endeavors to rebuild one, its intention is to unleash conflict.

A man like Krovchenko, who leaves the Soviet Union and criticizes its regime, is traitor, a cur, a reptile and a rat.

But Spanish Communists who have taken refuge abroad to campaign against Franco are heroes and martyrs.

For Communists, democratic regimes in France and Italy which keep them from power, are police states.

But glory to so-called "popular democracies" where all parties, whether of left or right, are outlawed for sole benefit of Communists.

In a democratic country, when a court which provides all possible guarantees to an accused person, pronounces a sentence, it hands down a disgraceful verdict.

But in a "popular democracy," when a court condemns a bishop or priest, it performs an act of exalted justice.

When western powers arm-Axis satellites which have become totalitarian states that peace treaties entail certain obligations, this is branded as intolerable interference in internal affairs.

But when, at Cominform's instigation Soviets provoke strikes in other countries, their action should be considered as legitimate.

Western nations which approve the Marshall Plan are tools of American imperialism, but Communists who place themselves at the Soviet Union above those of their own countries are impeccable patriots.

The USSR never commits an act of war, and never starts a conflict proclaim. It was obviously imperialistic America which attacked Finland, swallowed up Baltic countries, annexed Koenigsberg and "liberated" 25,000,000 human beings who had no desire to be "liberated."

VA TO SPEED UP REFUNDS TO GI POLICY HOLDERS

Washington.—The Veterans Administration issued a call for 1,000 temporary employes to help finish the job of refunding almost $2,000,000,000 to insurance policyholders among veterans.

George H. Sweet, assistant VA personnel chief, said that the employes either must be punch-card machine operators or trainees. They will receive from $2,264 to $2,724 a year.

About 500 temporary employes already have been taken on to work on the refunds. The extra 1,000 will bring the total to 1,500.

AFL SEAFARERS UNION SEEKS NEW WELFARE PLAN

Baltimore.—The AFL's Seafarers International Union announced its intention of seeking the establishment of a welfare fund in subsequent negotiations with employers.

Harry Lundeberg, president of the union, told delegates to the recent convention held here that under present economic conditions wage rates for seamen had about reached their peak. In view of this, he said, the union will shift its emphasis toward the working out of a satisfactory welfare plan.

BACK PAY RECOVERED FOR 945 EMPLOYEES

New York.—As a result of inspections made under federal laws, 374 New York state employers agreed to back wages of $42,691 to 945 employees last month, it was announced by Arthur J. Wilcox, regional director of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, United States Department of Labor.

The payments were restitution for failure to comply with the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the Wage and Hour law covering interstate commerce.

UNEMPLOYMENT REPORTED HIGH IN CONNECTICUT

Hartford, Conn.—The Connecticut State Labor Department reported that for the week which ended April 2, a total of 67,974 claims for unemployment compensation were filed.

New claims stood at a 7,500 total as compared with 6,919 for the previous week. Such claims have averaged about 7,000 a week since the first of the year, the department said.

The total number of claims filed for the same week a year ago was 24,383, of which 2,582 were new claims.

Idle pay allowances for the past week amounted to $1,122,967.

AFL Offers Plan For Creation Of Free World Labor Group

Text of AFL Statement On New World Labor Unit

The international situation continues to be highly critical. The threat to world peace continues to be very acute primarily as a result of the course of imperialist aggression pursued by the totalitarian Kremlin rulers. The forces of these political Soviet aggrandizement, the so-called World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), have taken over a new role since the war ended even before. In Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin-America, this fifth column of the Soviet state has continued to pervert, sometimes to promote reconstruction and promote social and political chaos. It is performing an essential and vital role in the Soviet military aggressive strategy.

In the interest of the ideals of democratic labor, for the sake of the well-being of free workers and the peace of the world, the free trade unions must be aroused to this dire threat to human progress. We must organize to safeguard the principles of social justice and secure for democratic labor its money. Only through a unified active and effective world federation of labor can the free trade unions meet this challenge.

Realizing the above, the International Labor Relations Committee recommends that the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor which meets in Cleveland on May 16, reaffirm its readiness to help build a free world labor federation of labor embodying the democratic trade unions of all countries.

Already the British Trades Union Congress, the CIO and the Netherlands Federation of Labor finally broke away from the Cominform-controlled WFTU they gave the signal for every other democratic trade union body to sever its relations with this Bolshevik caricature and perversion of an international labor movement. As this process of separation proceeds, there is created a vacuum in the ranks of world labor. The American Federation of Labor cannot stand idly by. It must be filled by the building of a new and organized world unity of free labor. Already, the Communists have been making in fill this void and, thereby, aggravating the totalitarian menace to human liberty, the well-being of the working people and peace.

The AFL Executive Council must recognize the urgency and the urgency of their unification into one world federation of labor, certain indispensable preliminary steps must be taken. The AFL cannot carry out this task alone. It is of the utmost importance that no effort be spared in meeting the preparatory tasks on a sound and practical basis. Accordingly, the AFL should call a conference in line with the declaration made by the Executive Council on February 4, 1949, to the effect that the free trade unions of the world must be united in order to achieve a complete break with the methods of power politics. Nor can we insist that the unification of the free trade unions of the world be a unification movement of all countries—regardless of their size—and on thorough-going democratic principles. Likewise, the free trade unions and democratic labor trade secretariats should be consulted in the negotiations, and be given every opportunity to participate in the preparatory conferences which will lead to the democratic labor. Without such truly collective democratic preparations no successful world movement can be attained.

Finally, we cannot underscore too heavily that we are seeking the establishment of a new labor world union based on an efficient democratic and collective leadership, with strong autonomous international trade secretariats—rather than the centralization of the former International Federation of Trade Unions. We must not seek a mere return to the old. We must not repeat the mistakes of the past. We must have a genuine world organization of free trade unions—a world organization of trade unions free from all control by governments and free from all domination and manipulation by political parties and political ideologies. We must all learn from the mistakes of the more distant past as well as from the recent tragic experience with the WFTU.

Anxious as we are to hasten the establishment of a world federation of free trade unions, we do not fail to recognize that clarification, adjustment and agreement on a number of important organizational problems—like single affiliations in any one country on the basis of their actual membership—will have to be attained before there can be any formal launching of the new democratic world body of labor.

The American Federation of Labor herewith assures the ranks of free democratic labor everywhere that these negotiations for clarification and agreement will not cause us to relax in any way our vigilance and our world-wide activities in behalf of free trade unionism and democracy. We shall continue to support the struggling forces resisting the encroachments of Communist and every other brand of totalitarian dictatorship and reaction. Through these activities we are strengthening the bonds of international democratic labor solidarity as an additional asset for a sound world unity of action.

3. After the report of this provisional committee shall have been acted upon by the conference, the provisional committee shall proceed to undertake to call the Foundation Conference at a time and place that will assure the fullest possible attendance and participation.

Harrison Urges Buy-Union Drive

Washington.—George Harrison, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, urged workers and their families to buy union-made products and services. He said:

"Buying union-made is our security of employment and our ability to provide a decent living for children are furthered by the backing we give to our trade unions," Harrison said.

"Every device that strengthens our unions strengthens our economy as a whole.

"In patronizing each other we further the interests of fellow-members of union members. Thus, it is axiomatic that the union label, shop card and union label goods and patronize union stores is in the interest of their own individual economic security and to advance their standard of living."

See 27% Gain by '58 In Living Standards

Washington.—The average American can be assured by 27 per cent better living standards by 1958 as a result of steady gradual increase in productivity, Secretary Sawyer predicted.

This prediction of good times to come was made in the annual report of Council of Economic Advisers.

The nation's economy can be kept on the administration's theory that the causes of depressions and booms are understood and radical changes in the nation's economy averted by planning. Basic is maintenance of full employment.

The predicted gain of 27 percent in better living standards is based on improved productivity. Economists announced that our productivity has increased for generations at the rate of about 2 percent a year.

If government and business continue to follow "enlightened, foresighted adjustments, the President's council says, all Americans should be able to buy more and better goods and services, work more, and have more leisure time.

TELEVISION MUSICIANS WIN NEW PAY INCREASE

New York—James C. Petrillo, president of the AFL's American Federation of Musicians announced a new pact with the broadcasting and television networks providing a wage increase for musicians.

For local telecasts, musicians will receive 80 percent of the comparable rate for standard radio instead of 66 2-3 percent as before. For network telecasts they will receive 90 percent of the rate for standard radio instead of 75 as heretofore.

The radio rates vary according to type of broadcast and the city from which it originates. The basic rate for a network radio broadcast from New York is $18 for a half-hour performance.

NEW CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTE SIGNED BY N. J. GOVERNOR

Trenton, N. J.—New Jersey's new civil rights legislation designed to "eliminate and prevent discrimination in employment, education, recreation and housing because of race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry" became law here with the approval of the measure by Governor Alfred E. Driscoll.

Previous legislation has confined enforcement largely to the employment field. Voluntary settlements of disputes, rather than resort to civil litigation or prosecution, has been the policy of the State Division Against Discrimination. Continuation of this policy without use of new penalties is expected. The act sets maximum fines at $500 and jail terms up to one year.

AFL Committee Urges Full Participation By Free Groups

Washington.—The AFL's International Labor Relations Committee proposed a plan under which noncommunist labor federations of both big and small nations of Europe, North and South America and Asia would have a voice in the creation of a new free world labor organization.

The committee recommended to the AFL Executive Council that a provisional committee of labor representatives from these nations be set up as soon as possible to explore the needs and requirements to be met by the constitution of the international organization as a preliminary step to the calling of a world conference of free trade union groups for the purpose of actually creating the new world labor body.

A statement released by the committee emphasized the need for full discussion of problems incident to the formation of a new organization by representatives of all countries and of the international trade secretariats to insure that the eventual creation of a new world federation will be brought about as the result of "truly democratic collaboration."

"We emphatically reaffirm," the committee said, "the declaration made by the Executive Council on February 4, 1949 to the effect that in the preparation for a new trade union international there must be complete break with the methods of power politics."

Warning that organized labor everywhere must learn from the bitter experience of the Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions, the committee declared that we must "strive for something better and higher than either the WFTU or the older International Federation of Trade Unions."

The statement said:

"We cannot underscore too heavily that we are seeking the establishment of a new free trade union international with an efficient democratic collective leadership, with strong autonomous international trade secretariats. We must have a genuine world organization of free trade unions free from all control by governments and free from all domination and manipulation by political parties and political ideologies."

The AFL group said that the preliminary fact-finding committee must seek clarification, adjustment and agreement on a number of important problems before the formal launching of the new world body.

One of these, it said, is the problem of multiple affiliations in any one country where there is more than one free trade union. Under present conditions exist not only in the United States but in Italy, Belgium, Holland, France and Luxembourg as well.

Other problems for the committee to study include the membership of the call for the world conference, the basis of representation, the exact structure of the organization, the location of the central headquarters, methods of financing, and a system of arbitration.

In the interim period before action on the proposals of the committee pledged the AFL to continue its support of free trade union groups everywhere. Its statement said:

"The American Federation of Labor herewith assures the ranks of free democratic labor everywhere that these negotiations for clarification and agreement will not cause us to relax in any way our vigilance and our world-wide activities in behalf of free trade unionism and democracy. We shall continue to support the struggling forces resisting the encroachments of Communist and every other brand of totalitarian dictatorship and reaction. Through these activities we are strengthening the bonds of international democratic labor solidarity as an additional asset for a sound world unity of action."

AFL BACKS AID TO D. C.; HITS SALES, EXCISE TAXES

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor is cooperating with the Washington Central Labor Union in urging the passage of the annual federal payment of $15,000,000 to the District of Columbia and in opposition to the proposed sales tax, AFL Secretary-Treasurer Meany revealed.

The union reported Arthur Elder, tax expert of the national AFL and president representative of the AFL Workers' Education Bureau, had informed Meany that "practically without the country oppose sales and excise taxes as taxes on necessities lowering purchasing power" and consider such taxes "profitable only in an extreme emergency" and on a temporary basis.

$67,266 FOR MARCH OF DIMES

New York—Members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union of Labor is cooperating with the Washington Central Labor Union in urging the passage of the annual federal payment of $15,000,000 to the District of Columbia and in opposition to the proposed sales tax, AFL Secretary-Treasurer Meany revealed.

The union reported Arthur Elder, tax expert of the national AFL and president representative of the AFL Workers' Education Bureau, had informed Meany that "practically without the country oppose sales and excise taxes as taxes on necessities lowering purchasing power" and consider such taxes "profitable only in an extreme emergency" and on a temporary basis.

$67,266 FOR MARCH OF DIMES

New York—Members of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union of Labor is cooperating with the March of Dimes for the 1949 fight against infantile paralysis, it was announced here.